

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment with respect to claims 30,63,64, and 66 was given in a telephone interview with Paul C. Onderick on 9 March 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 30:

On line 1 change "by" to - - comprising: - -.

On line 4 after the word "method" insert - - further - -.

In claim 63:

On line 1 change "by" to - - comprising: - -.

On line 4 after the word "method" insert - - further - -.

On page 6 of the set of claims of 02/28/2011 please delete:

"47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, further comprising selecting said electrical property from the group consisting of: conductivity and capacitance.".

This is the second occurrence of claim 47. The previous recitation of claim 47 is not deleted by this examiner's amendment.

In claim 64:

On line 4 change "reflects" to - - relates - -.

In claim 66:

On line4 change "reflects" to - - relates - -.

In the title delete "AND DEVICE FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD".

Regarding the amendment to the title, please note that this application does have any apparatus claims.

Amako et al. in U.S. 2002/00212723 discloses using a phase grating to split a laser beam of different wavelengths into a plurality of sub laser beams. Takada et al. in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0149425 discloses splitting a laser beam into a P-polarized component and an S-polarized component and then recombining the components. Kimbara in U.S. Patent No. 4,707,584 discloses using two laser oscillators circularly polarized of opposite polarization and of slightly offset frequencies (spectra) to cut a workpiece. Baumgartner et al. in U.S. Patent No. 4,920,541 disclose producing various wavelengths from the same laser medium. Xie in U.S. Patent No. 5,995,523 discusses a laser with multiple wavelengths with frequency discrimination to

choose a desired wavelength (see column 6, lines 38-67). Scheps et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,528,612 discloses a laser capable of producing at least two wavelengths simultaneously and that "it may contain a polarization rotating plate capable of rotating the polarization of one or more wavelengths simultaneously within the laser resonator cavity with respect to the others" (see column 7, lines 29-33). Scheps in U.S. Patent No. 6,259,560 discloses a continuously variable beam combiner. Yoshioka et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,260,728 discloses splitting and recombining a laser beam. Noda et al. in Japan Patent No. 5-104,276 discloses a laser beam machine with beam splitting to create two branched beams, using a non-linear crystal to create a harmonic on one of the branched laser beams and then recombining the laser beams.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey S. Evans whose telephone number is (571)-272-1174. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00AM to 3:30 PM (flexible).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on (571)-272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Geoffrey S Evans/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742